

Media Release

Yavapai County Sheriff's Office

Scott Mascher – Sheriff

255 E. Gurley Street, Prescott, AZ 86301

Dwight D'Evelyn - Media Coordinator

928-777-7441



September 3, 2015 – UPDATE – Suspect identified – further details

Deputy Involved Shooting – Suspect Deceased

Suspect Identified/Additional details and clarifications/Sheriff Mascher comment –

The deceased suspect has been identified as Arthur Edward Bates, age 45, a resident at the incident location.

The initial call to YCSO regarding Arthur's behavior came from a friend outside the area. She had just spoken with him on the phone and he shared his intent to commit suicide. A few minutes later, as deputies were driving towards the Marlow Drive home, Arthur's wife called dispatchers from inside the home. She explained that Arthur was on the front porch firing rounds into the neighborhood and threatening suicide.

As deputies began arriving, Arthur's wife indicated he continued to fire multiple shots towards nearby homes including a shot at a moving vehicle. She also explained that Arthur was crouched down in the front yard with a firearm waiting for deputies. Arthur continued to fire shots as deputies deployed to secure the yard and negotiate with him. At one point, Arthur re-entered the home to apparently reload his firearm even with the knowledge deputies were outside ordering him not to do so.

Deputies deployed at the rear of the property were able to escort his wife away to safety as other deputies contained the suspect in the front yard.

Over the next several minutes, deputies attempted to gain Arthur's cooperation without success. He continued firing shots and refused to drop the firearm. At one point in the negotiations, he walked directly towards deputies, still armed, and demanding they shoot him. After exhausting all attempts to deescalate the situation as Arthur continued to advance towards deputies still armed, a deputy in close proximity was forced to shoot Arthur in self-defense and the defense of others nearby. Medical personnel arrived within minutes and pronounced Arthur deceased at the scene.

An adjacent neighbor later told deputies he was preparing to arm himself and defend his family when the shooting began and was extremely grateful for the immediate law enforcement response.

The incident was recorded on a body camera and YCSO expects to have the video available next week. No further details or comments are expected pending the review by DPS investigators and the County Attorney.

Sheriff Mascher offers the following – *"Deputies responded to an active suicidal shooter and although saddened by the loss of life, I believe my deputies acted professionally and reacted to their training under very difficult circumstances. I have asked the Department of Public Safety, Officer Involved Shooting Team, to investigate this*

incident. I know they will conduct a thorough and independent review of all the facts and circumstances.”

Issued September 2, 2015 - Around 4:15 this afternoon deputies were dispatched to the 4300 block of West Marlo Drive, Prescott, regarding a man firing shots outside his home towards surrounding neighbor's homes. While deputies were responding, the suspect's wife additionally called and confirmed her husband had fired numerous shots into the neighborhood from the front of their home. She was inside the home at the time and feared for her safety.

As deputies arrived, one of the deputies on back side containment was able to escort the suspect's wife away from the yard after she snuck away without the suspect's knowledge. She told deputies her husband had re-entered the house to re-load a firearm and provided indications he was suicidal.

Deputies on the front side of the house approached the property as the suspect continued to fire rounds from the front yard into the neighborhood. Deputies attempted to negotiate with the man while directing him to drop the firearm. The suspect ignored those orders and began walking in the direction of the deputies while firing. A deputy, in fear for his life and the lives of those around him, shot the suspect. Medical personnel arrived and he was pronounced dead at the scene. The deputy was not injured.

The Department of Public Safety Officer Involved Shooting Team was notified and expected on scene tonight to begin an investigation.

As per policy, the deputy will be placed on administrative leave pending a review of the circumstances. His name will be held for 48 hours – again, per policy. The suspect's name will be released following verification of identity.

Citizens can contact the Yavapai County Sheriff's Office with information or questions at 928-771-3260 or the YCSO website:
www.ycsoaz.gov